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Message Text

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64
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02

OMB-01 MCT-01 SCA-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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O P 162020Z NOV 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2228
USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 11018

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM SREF CI UR CU PFOR
SUBJECT: RELEASE OF DETAINEES

REF: SANTIAGO 10997

THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE GOC'S
ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY NOVEMBER 16 ON PRISONER RELEASE:

BEGIN TEXT

BULLETIN NO. 4

THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES THE RELEASE OF ALL STATE
OF SIEGE DETAINEES. CORVALAN'S RELEASE IS BEING PRO-
CESSED THROUGH THE SAKHAROV COMMITTEE.

SANTIAGO, NOVEMBER 16, 1976. THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED
THE UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL BUT 18 DETAINEES HELD BY
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VIRTUE OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT

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BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT, GENERAL HERNAN BEJARES. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT EX-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OUTLAWED COMMUNIST PARTY, LUIS CORVALAN, COULD BE RELEASED IF AND WHEN TALKS INITIATED WITH THE SAKHAROV COMMITTEE WORK OUT. THEY SEEK THE EXCHANGE OF THE EX-COMMUNIST LEADER FOR THE SOVIET DISSIDENT, VLADIMIR BUKOVSKI.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PUBLIC STATEMENT MADE BY GENERAL BEJARES TODAY:

CONTINUING ITS PROGRAM TO RELEASE DETAINEES BEGUN MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE INFORMS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. ON THIS DATE, THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT HAS RESOLVED TO RELEASE UNCONDITIONALLY ALL DETAINEES HELD BY VIRTUE OF THE STATE OF SIEGE, EXCEPT FOR 18.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE LATTER, THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE ANNOUNCES ITS WILLINGNESS TO FREE THEM, SUBJECT SOLELY TO THE CONDITION THAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE READY TO RECEIVE THEM, SINCE THEY POSE A SPECIAL DANGER TO THE SECURITY OF THE STATE, REQUIRING THEIR DEPARTURE FROM CHILE.

3. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS SET TWO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE:

(A) LUIS CORVALAN, BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS EX-SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE PROSCRIBED CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY A BRANCH OF SOVIET COMMUNISM WHICH TODAY LEADS THE INTERNATIONAL COMPAIGN OF AGGRESSION AND SLANDER AGAINST CHILE THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE WORLD.

NEVERTHELESS, AND AS A CLEAR MANIFESTATION OF ITS PROFOUND HUMAN AND CHRISTIAN RESPECT FOR THE VALUES OF FREEDOM AND DIGNITY OF MAN, THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT BEGAN LAST OCOTBER A SERIES OF APPROACHES DESIGNED TO REAFFIRM
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ITS WILLINGNESS TO LIBERATE EVEN MR CORVALAN ON THE CONDITION THAT THE SOVIET UNION WOULD MAKE THE EQUAL CONCESSION OF FREEING INTELLECTUAL VLADIMIR BUKOVSKI, CURRENTLY DETAINED IN THE SOVIET UNION. THIS WILLINGNESS WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE SAHKAROV COMMITTEE, BASED IN COPENHAGEN. IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE THAT CHILE HAS BEGUN DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ANYWHERE, AS CERTAIN MEDIA HAVE PUT OUT.

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(B) MR JORGE MONTES, BECAUSE OF HIS POSITION AS
TOP LEADER FOR CLANDESTINE ACTION OF THE AFOREMENTIONED
PROSCRIBED COMMUNIST PARTY, WHOSE RELEASE WILL BE CON-
DITIONED UPON THE RELEASE OF CUBAN LEADER HUBERT MATOS,
IMPRISONED BY THE CASTRO REGIME FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS.
TO THIS END CHILE WILL APPROACH APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS.

4. PUBLIC OPINION WILL RECALL PRESIDENT PINOCHET'S
OFFER OF SEPTEMBER 11, 1974 TO THE SOVIET UNION AND
CUBA TO UNDERTAKE JOINTLY A PLAN TO FREE DETAINEES UNDER
THE SUPERVISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS. IN
SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE DETAINED
BY THE MARXIST/LENINIST GOVERNMENTS ARE SO MUCH
GREATER AS NOT TO COMPARE WITH THE CHILEAN CASE. HISTORY
MUST JUDGE THE SILENCE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED GOVERNMENTS
WHEN FACED WITH THIS OFFER. CHILE BEGAN ITS RELEASES
AT THE END OF 1974 AND TODAY HAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED IT,
WHICH WILL SURELY BE DULY APPRECIATED BY THE FREE MEN OF
THE WORLD WHO CAN OBSERVE FOR THEMSELVES THE INCONSISTENCIES
BETWEEN CHILEAN REALITY AND THE SLANDER THAT OTHERS LAUNCH
AGAINST IT. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE, INVOKING THE SACRED RIGHT
OF MAN TO LIVE IN FREEDOM, REQUESTS VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS, HIGHEST ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITIES AND
THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL NATIONS OF THE FREE
WORLD TO EXERT INFLUENCE SO THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND
CUBA ADOPT AN IDENTICAL ATTITUDE IN LOGICAL AND LEGITI-
MATE RECIPROCITY.

THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE HAS ACTED AND WILL CONTINUE
ACTING IMPLACABLY TO PRESERVE PUBLIC ORDER AND SOCIAL
PEACE, ESPECIALLY DURING THE SITUATION OF EMERGENCY
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POWERS THAT CURRENTLY OBTAINS IN THE COUNTRY. BUT IT
HAS ADOPTED AND WILL CONTINUE ADOPTING STEPS TOWARD
PROGRESSIVE NORMALIZATION AS CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT,
AS GOVERNMENT ACTION BEARS FRUIT AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF
THE IMMENSE MAJORITY OF THE CHILEAN PEOPLE.

END TEXT
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